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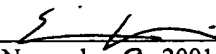
Application Number	09/708,085
Filing Date	November 8, 2000
First Named Inventor	Nobuhiro JIWARI et al.
Group Art Unit	2813
Examiner Name	T. Nguyen
Attorney Docket Number	740819-0450

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Request For Reconsideration	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	
<input type="checkbox"/> After Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition	
<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application	Remarks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2380 for the above identified docket number.
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Eric J. Robinson, Reg. No. 38,285 Nixon Peabody LLP 8180 Greensboro Drive Suite 800 McLean, VA 22012
Signature	
Date	November 9, 2001

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT application of:

Nobuhiro JIWARI et al.

Art Unit: 2813

Application No.: 09/708,085

Examiner: Thanh NGUYEN

Filed: November 8, 2000

For: METHOD FOR FABRICATING
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 9, 2001

Dear Sir:

In response to the Examiner's non-Final Office Action mailed August 15, 2001, please consider the following remarks in connection with the above-identified application.

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the review and consideration of the present application.

The Examiner's Office Action dated August 15, 2001 has been received and its contents reviewed. Claims 1-9 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, and 6 are independent.

Referring now to the Office Action, claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Akahori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,218,299) in view of Homma et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,420,075) or Kobayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,214,748). This rejection is respectfully traversed at least for the reasons provided below.

According to the presently claimed invention, one of the novel features of claims 1 and 6 is in the step of densifying a flourine-containing organic film by exposing the flourine-containing

organic film to plasma of a rare gas in a reactor chamber. Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited prior art references teach, disclose, or suggest this claimed step.

The Examiner asserts that Akahori discloses densifying the flourine-containing organic film by exposing to plasma of rare gas Ar in the same reactor chamber in col. 7, lines 20+.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that Akahori has been misinterpreted, as Akahori specifically states, in col. 7, lines 20-21, that the Ar gas is made into a plasma, and is highly densified. In other words, in Akahori, it is the Ar plasma that is highly densified and not the flourine-containing organic film that is highly densified as recited in Applicants' claims 1 and 6.

Similarly to Akahori, Homma and Kobayashi also fail to teach, disclose, or suggest the step of densifying a flourine-containing organic film by exposing the flourine-containing organic film to plasma of a rare gas in a reactor chamber.

It is well-established that, in order to show obviousness, all limitations in the claim must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In Re Boyka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974); MPEP § 2143.03. It is error to ignore specific limitations distinguishing over the references. In Re Boe, 184 U.S.P.Q. 38, 505 F.2d 1297 (C.C.P.A. 1974); In Re Saether, 181 U.S.P.Q. 36, 492 F.2d 849 (C.C.P.A. 1974); In Re Glass, 176 U.S.P.Q. 489, 472 F.2d 1388 (C.C.P.A. 1973). All of the cited prior art references fail to teach, disclose, or suggest step of densifying a flourine-containing organic film by exposing the flourine-containing organic film to plasma of a rare gas in a reactor chamber. Therefore, their application in the § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-9 is improper.

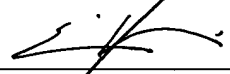
In view of the foregoing arguments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of claims 1-9.

CONCLUSION

Having responded to all rejections set forth in the outstanding non-Final Office Action, it is submitted that claims 1-9 are now in condition for allowance. An early and favorable Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. In the event that the Examiner is of the opinion that a brief telephone or personal interview will facilitate allowance of one or more of the above claims, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

By


Eric J. Robinson
Reg. No. 38,285

NIXON PEABODY, LLP
8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 800
McLean, Virginia 22102
Telephone: (703) 790-9110
Facsimile: (703) 883-0370

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